



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN.



UNIVERSITEIT • STELLENBOSCH • UNIVERSITY
jou kennisvenoot • your knowledge partner



ISTR Africa

African civil society research network

ISTR civil society research network conference: 23 – 27 August
PROGRAMME OVERVIEW
Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study

Tuesday, 23 August

- 09h30 – 09h50 Welcome and registration
09h50 – 15h45 Professional Development Workshop: Investigating civil society in Africa
16h00 – 17h00 African Region ISTR meeting

Wednesday, 24 August – Friday, 26 August

- 08h30 – 17h00 Conference sessions
13h50 – 14h40 With the following keynote and plenary addresses:

Wednesday, 24 August

Adebayo Olukoshi

Civil Society, Democratic Governance and Development in Africa: A Debate Revisited

Thursday, 25 August

Adam Habib

Civil Society, Democracy, and Inclusive Development: Bridging the Divide between Progressive Nationalism and the Human Rights Community

Friday, 26 August

Alan Fowler

Perspectives on Afro-Centrism in Civil Society Research

Saturday, 27 August

- 09h40 – 16h40 ICNL ISTR Africa Workshop on CSO Accountability: Mechanisms for Improvement



I S T R Africa

African civil society research network

ISTR Africa Professional Development Workshop
Investigating civil society in Africa
23 August 2011, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study

- 09h30 – 9h50 Welcome and registration
- 09h50 – 11h20 Complex social phenomena and the plethora of civil society concepts – Is there an Africa Understanding?
Facilitated by Alan Fowler
- 11h20 – 11h45 Coffee break
- 11h45 – 13h15 The dilemmas of qualitative civil society enquiry: norm-full, norm-free or ?
Facilitated by Alan Fowler
- 13h15 – 14h15 Lunch
- 14h15– 15h45 The challenges of capturing the core dimensions of civil society in a quantitative framework
Facilitated by Bev Russell

ISTR African civil society research conference
OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME,
24 – 26 August 2011

	24Aug	25Aug	26Aug
8h30 - 10h30	Session 1	Session 4	Session 6
10h30 - 11h00	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
11h00 - 13h00	Sessions 2 a+b	Sessions 5a+b	Session 7
13h00 - 13h50	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
13h50 - 14h40	Keynote Adebayo Olukoshi: <i>Civil Society, Democratic Governance and Development in Africa: A Debate Revisited</i>	Plenary Adam Habib: <i>Civil Society, Democracy, and Inclusive Development: Bridging the Divide between Progressive Nationalism and the Human Rights Community</i>	Plenary Alan Fowler: <i>Perspectives on Afro-Centrism in Civil Society Research</i>
14h40 - 15h00	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
15h00 - 17h00	Sessions 3a+b	UNDP and Civicus session on participatory civil society assessment (see attached detail)	Session 8a+b

Detailed programme

Wednesday, 24 August 2011

Session 1: 8h30 – 10h30, chaired by Jacob Mati

Theme: Civil Society, Internal Governance, Accountability and Regulation

Beyond Civil Society – Civic Driven Change and Governance in Africa - Alan Fowler

More windows, less break-ins: strengthening democratic governance through timely popular representation - Tim A. Balag'kutu

Session 2a: 11h00 – 13h00

Virtual conference via skype, chaired by Ronelle Burger

Making room at the table: Claiming and Retaining Normative and Institutional Space for African Civil Society Organisations that promote Rule of Law Reforms - Jeffrey Brown

The Emergence of Voluntary and Self-Regulation among NGOs in Africa - Mary Gugerty

Charity Laws and Their Impacts in Democratization: Examining the Ethiopian Charity Law – Beyene Tessema

Assessing the Democracy African Civil Society Organisations- Julius Lambia

Session 2b: 11h00 – 13h00

Theme: Civil Society and Governance, chaired by Ebenezer Obadare

Public Participation in Third Sector Operations and Third World Development - Olumide Coker and Maryanne Isu Iwara

Civil Society, Regional Initiatives and Democratic Governance in Zimbabwe - Charles Dube

The People's Budget Process – exploring how the People's Budget Coalition has utilised the civil space provided or claimed to emerge with people-centered budget proposals - Fundi Nzimande

Session 3a: 15h00 – 17h00

Theme: Civil Society in contentious politics and claim making, chaired by Hippolyt Pul

Social protest in South Africa - Patrick Bond and Shauna Mottiar

Civil Society Engagement and Representative Claim-Making in Participatory Governance - Belisa Marochi

Wednesday, 24 August 2011

Session 3b: 15h00 – 17h00

Theme: Civil Society and Democratization, chaired by Wendy Willems

Leadership and Collective Action in Egypt's Tahrir Revolution: Emergence of Civic Activism in Response to Repression - Jennifer Bremer

Popular Uprising and Food Prices in Kenya - Priscilla Wamucii

While we were picketing: Declining relevance of civil society organisations to social transformation - Eva Ayiera

Thursday, 25 August 2011

Session 4: 8h30 – 10h30

Theme: Civil Society and religious spaces, chaired by Ebenezer Obadare

The church as CSO: dangers and potential - Elisabet Le Roux

Sacred Space in the Public Sphere – The Role of the Church in the Search for Peace, Redemocratization, and Political Renewal in Africa - Hippolyt Pul

David and Two Goliaths: The “prophetic church” as civil society in South Africa - Deborah Simpson

Session 5a: 11h00 – 13h00

Theme: Gendered civil society?, chaired by Deborah Simpson

Civil Society and Gender Contestations for Space in Ghana - Josephine Dawuni

Invisible boundaries of Political Access: Culture, Political Spaces and the Participation of Women in the Public Spheres of Ghana – Hippolyt Pul

Market Women's Rotational Savings Club -- Reconfiguring Socio-cultural, Economic and Political Spaces in Marginal Neighborhoods in Nairobi, Kenya - Edward Ontita

Session 5b: 11h00 – 13h00

Theme: Civil Society funding and donor relations, chaired by Alan Fowler

Receive grants or perish? Survival prospects of Ugandan NGOs - Ronelle Burger

Democracy, Donor Principles and Civil Society Space: Motivation and Impact of disabling environment on Development work in Africa - Paul Okumu

The Impact of Donor Requirement and Expectations on the Socio-Economic Role of Nongovernmental Organisations in South Africa - Dineo Shirley Seabe

Friday, 26 August 2011

Session 6: 8h30 – 10h30

Theme: Critical new perspectives, chaired by Susan Wilkinson-Maposa

Where do we look for the African perspective and understanding of Civil Society and how do we engage with it? - Bev Russell

Changing spaces, changing faces: The political economy of neoliberalism and the shaping of contemporary civil society in Kenya and South Africa - Jacob Mati

But...what if the Subject chooses not to Speak? On Silence and the Politics of Civil Society - Ebenezer Obadare

Session 7: 11h00 – 13h00

Theme: Volunteerism and service, chaired by Priscilla Wamucii

International volunteers and the development of host organisations in Africa: lessons from Tanzania and Mozambique- Helene Perold

Do Samaritan Migrants really Work for the Well-being of Local Communities? Evidence from Cameroon in Central Africa - Gerard Tchouassi

Session 8a: 15h00 – 17h00

Theme: Civil Society and Media, chaired by Jacob Mati

Civil Society on Air: Radio Talk Shows and the Deliberative Public Sphere in Post-apartheid South Africa - Jendele Hungbo

Radio trottoir in the age of digital media: new civil spaces, new politics? - Wendy Willems

Session 8b: 15h00 – 17h00

Theme: Philanthropy, chaired by Helene Perold

A Horizontality Index: Monitoring Change in the Behavior of Community Philanthropy Organisations to blend with an Indigenous Understanding and Practice of African Philanthropy - Susan Wilkinson

The private sector agenda in the local community development spaces – philanthropy or monopoly? – Patience Sekete

Money, Mission or Need: How do Ugandan NGOs Choose Activities - Ronelle Burger, Amit Grover and Trudy Owens



Taking the temperature: towards new forms of participatory civil society assessment in an African context

UNDP/CIVICUS panel at ISTR Africa civil society research conference

Summary

This panel will discuss potential next steps in the development of participatory civil society assessments in an African context. It will draw from the recent experience of the CIVICUS 2008-2011 Civil Society Index project, which enabled national civil society self-assessments in around 35 countries, and generated new information from nine countries in Africa (Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo and Zambia, with work also in its early stages in Madagascar and Uganda). It will also draw from the recent UNDP series of publications on the future of participatory civil society assessments, which includes a case study on the experience of Mozambique.

Key questions for consideration:

- What are the tools available to assess civil society today? Who produces this data?
- What have been some of the strengths and weaknesses for civil society assessments in Africa to date?
- What are the opportunities for connection and synergy with other initiatives?
- What are the choices and trade offs to be made between international comparability and the local strengthening of civil society?
- When should assessments be national, local or regional? When should they be comprehensive, thematic or sectoral?
- How do we conduct assessments in restrictive and culturally sensitive environments?
- What difference does it make to measure civil society and civic engagement?

Proposed panel

4 x 15-20 minute presentations:

- The current debate on civil society assessments
Beniam Gebrezghi, Programme Specialist, UNDP Partnerships Bureau CSO Division
- CIVICUS Civil Society Index – learning from the African experience
Andrew Firmin, Research Manager, CIVICUS
- Experiences from some further civil society assessment tools
Angela Scott, ICNL
- What next for participatory civil society assessments in Africa?
Alan Fowler
- Followed by questions, discussion

Background

The idea of having tools to measure civil society's strength and contribution can be seen to date back to the early 1990s, following the burgeoning of civil society in former Eastern Bloc countries and the increase in donor support to civil society organisations. As an attempt to build up an empirical picture of the state and health of civil society, the CIVICUS Civil Society Index, launched in 1991, was one of the first civil society assessment tools, and over 70 countries have since been involved in conducting CSI civil society self-assessments. A number of other civil society assessment tools have been successfully developed over the years, such as the Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project, and the USAID NGO Sustainability Index. Indeed, the recent UNDP publication, *A Users' Guide to Civil Society Assessments*, lists some 35 different ones. This suggests that the field is complex and that better ways of enabling the results of different assessments to be brought together need to be investigated.

At the same time, the climate for and structure of civil society has changed dramatically since the late 1990s: since then we have seen a range of shifts in positions by governments on advocacy NGOs in particular, with a number of crackdowns on the legal and funding environment of such CSOs; the growth of new forms of social movement and dissent that cannot always be well understood by reference to traditional organisational types; and the burgeoning of internet access and social media that drives new forms of participation and, amongst other things, suggests new opportunities for civil society measurement, analysis and reporting. The recently concluded 2008-2011 phase of the CIVICUS CSI paints a picture of gaps between established CSOs and other actors in civil society, including more diffuse forms of participation and rising online activism.

Other factors to be considered are a burgeoning academic debate about the need to develop a 'third generation' of civil society assessments, and what seems to be a worsening funding climate for civil society assessment, and a shift in donor appetites in this regard. Looking at the last phase of the CSI project as one example, several national partners, including those which had previously implemented CSI, dropped out of the project as they failed to secure sufficient funding. This implies it may be harder to mount such a comprehensive self-assessment process in future, and that lighter, cheaper tools may need to be developed and synergies realised between the application of various assessment tools.

All of this suggests it is a good time for those organisations running and offering civil society assessment tools – whether CSOs, academic institutions or governments – to take the lead in starting their own conversation about the future of their work; and as part of the ISTR Africa conference, to consider what form of civil society assessment is most needed and would best serve African contexts.

Ideas from the meeting will feed into a series of subsequent collaborations between CIVICUS and UNDP to help define new participatory civil society assessment tools, including a special session at the CIVICUS World Assembly, Montreal, September 2011, and the UNDP Oslo Governance Forum, October 2011.



ISTRAfrica
African civil society research network

Workshop on CSO Accountability: Mechanisms for Improvement

27 August 2011, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study

Increasingly accountability has received attention as a key issue in the relationships between CSOs, governments, donors, and beneficiaries. Traditionally, accountability relationships between these different stakeholders have been examined in isolation. This workshop aims to take a more holistic and integrated approach to examining these relationships, and analyzes ways to improve accountability throughout this web of stakeholder relationships. We will look at the regulatory mechanisms currently in place, and examine their strengths and limitations.

Morning Sessions: CSO Accountability to Donors and Beneficiaries – Towards a More Symbiotic Relationship – Facilitated by Dr Paul Okumu

- 09h40 – 10h40 CSO Accountability to Beneficiaries: Strengthening Community Voice
- 10h40 – 11h00 Coffee break
- 11h00 – 12h00 Accountability and the CSO Donor Relationship: A Complex Balancing Act
- 12h00 – 12h40 Group discussions
- 12h40 – 13h40 Lunch

Afternoon Session: Government regulation vs. Self-regulation Facilitated by Ms Angela Scott

- 13h40 – 14h40 Government regulation: Trends in Government Oversight of CSOs in Africa
- 14h30 – 14h40 Short break
- 14h40 – 15h30 Self-regulation: Successes and Limitations
- 15h30 – 15h50 Coffee break
- 15h50 – 16h40 Group discussions

List of participants			
Surname	Name	Affiliation	Email address
Adebanwi	Wale	Program in American and African Studies, University of California, Davis, USA	anadebanwi@ucdavis.edu
Ayiera	Eva	UAF Africa	emayiera@gmail.com
Balag'kutu	Tim	West Virginia University	Tim.adivilah@mail.wvu.edu
Belchior	Ellen	West Virginia University	Ellen.Rodrigues@mail.wvu.edu
Beyene	Tessema	University of Liverpool	tessmeb@liverpool.ac.uk
Bond	Patrick	UKZN	pbond@mail.ngo.za
Bremer	Jennifer	Department of Public Policy and Administration, The American University in Cairo	jbremer@aucegypt.edu
Brown	Jeffery	Florida A&M College of Law	jeffery.brown@famuc.edu
Burger	Ronelle	Stellenbosch University	rburger@sun.ac.za
Dawuni	Josephine	Georgia Gwinnet College	jdawuni@yahoo.com
Dube	Charles	Great Zimbabwe University	charliedoobs@gmail.com
Disele	Lebogang	University of Witwatersrand	Lebogang.disele@gmail.com
Eatlawe	Nicodemus	JEFICAS - University of Bradford	eatlawe@hotmail.com
Firmin	Andrew	CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation	andrew.firmin@civicus.org
Fowler	Alan	University of Rotterdam	alanfowler@compuserve.com
Gebrezghi	Beniam	UNDP	Beniam.gebrezghi@gmail.com
Gerard	Tchouassi	University of Yaounde II	tchouassigerard@yahoo.fr
Gugerty	Mary	Evans School of Public affairs, Centre for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington	gugerty@uw.edu
Habib	Adam	University of Johannesburg	ahabib@uj.ac.za
Hungbo	Jendele	University of the Witwatersrand	jendelehungbo@yahoo.com
Iwara	Maryanne Isu	Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, FCT- Abuja, Nigeria	Maryanneiwara@gmail.com
Lambi	Julius	University of Vienna	jnlambi@yahoo.com
Le Roux	Elisabet	Stellenbosch University	eleroux@sun.ac.za
Marochi	Belisa	Roskilde University	belisa@ruc.dk
Mati	Jacob	University of the Witwatersrand	jacobmati@gmail.com
Mdee	Anna	John and Elnora Ferguson Centre for African Studies, University of Bradford	a.l.mdee@bradford.ac.uk

Surname	Name	Affiliation	Email address
Mottiar	Shauna	Center for Civil Society, University of Kwazulu Natal	Mottiar@ukzn.ac.za
Moyo	Bhekinkosi	Trust Africa	moyo@trustafrica.org
Mpofu	Mandlenkosi	Department of Media and Communication, University of Oslo, Norway	mispham@yahoo.com
Nzimande	Fundi	National Labour and Economic Development Institute (NALEDI)	fundi@naledi.org.za
Murisa	Tendai	Trust Africa	murisa@trustafrica
Obadare	Ebenezer	Department of Sociology, University of Kansas	Obadare@ku.edu
Okumu	Paul	Africa CSO Platform on Principled Partnership ACCP	acppp@africasoplatfrom.org
Olukoshi	Adebayo	United Nations	olukoshi@yahoo.com
Ontita	Edward	Oxford Center for Mission Studies (OCMS), Oxford, UK	eontita@ocms.ac.uk
Perold	Helene	VOSESA (Voluntee and Service Enquiry Southern Africa)	helene.perold@vosesa.org.za
Pul	Hippolyt	Catholic relief Services	hippolyt@juno.com
Russell	Bev	Social Surveys South Africa	bev@socialsurveys.co.za
Seabe	Dineo Shirley	University of Western Cape	dineoseabe@gmail.com
Sekete	Patience	Wits University	psekete@inafrica.co.za
Poskitt	Adele	CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation	adele.poskitt@civicus.org
Ritchie	Gaby	Inyathelo - The South African Institute for Advancement	gaby@inyathelo.org.za
Scott	Angela	ICNL	ascott@icnl.org
Simpson	Deborah	University of Regina	deborahnnesimpson@gmail.com
Wamucii	Priscilla	Independent researcher	pwamucii@yahoo.com
Wilkinson- Maposa	Susan	Center for Leadership and Public Values	swilkinsonmaposa@gmail.com
Willems	Wendy	University of the Witwatersrand, Department of Media Studies	wendy.willems@wits.ac.za